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June 15, 2004

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
9300 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

RE: MM Docket No. 99-325

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Eastern Public Radio is an association of public radio organizations in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states that provides and facilitates professional growth, advocacy and networking for our members. Our goal is to enhance and improve the ability of our member stations to serve their listeners and communities.

On behalf of Eastern Public Radio and its 38 member stations, I am writing to express support for HD radio and its ability to provide SAC (secondary audio channel) capacity will improve public service to our communities.

Currently, analog radio technology places a limit on our respective stations in providing a single programming service to our communities. Digital broadcasting, with multicasting

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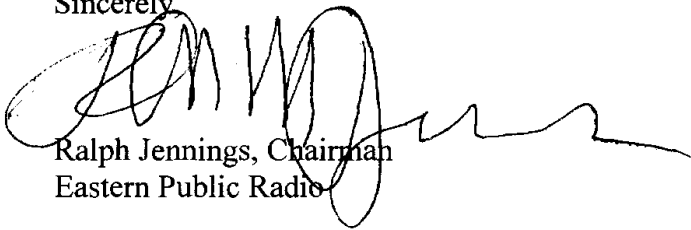
capabilities, will allow our radio stations to develop new, more varied and diverse programming formats whose formats would be more targeted and defined.

Our public radio stations strive to provide quality, in-depth programming to listeners in our regions. Multiplexing of the digital audio signal will enable us to provide programming to specific, particular audiences that are not currently served.

Listeners tune in to Eastern Public Radio stations because of our programming and the quality of our audio. HD radio's improved sound quality and elimination of distorting interference are important factors that will surely motivate us all to transition to digital broadcasting.

Our public radio stations share a mission to serve the public's education needs and have a proven track record of successfully doing so. We are counting on the FCC to fully protect our ability to serve that programming mission. This new technology will assist us greatly in providing greater access to radio for all our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Jennings', with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ralph Jennings, Chairman
Eastern Public Radio

Eastern Public Radio
P.O. Box 615
Kensington, MD 20895